

# *The Canvasback*

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Fall 2014  
Vol. 24 No. 4

\$7.00



Teal Decoys  
Small Birds with  
Big Appeal





410-939-3565

927 Pulaski Highway • Havre de Grace, MD 21078

## Serving Seasonal Local Favorites

Fried Oysters • Soft Shell Crabs • Rockfish  
Crab Cakes • Crab Imperial • Seafood Combo

BAYOU "GO" CARRY OUT — 410-939-3565

---

*Open Tuesday thru Sunday 11:30 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.*

***The place the locals always come back to!***

For over fifty years the Bayou Restaurant has been a local favorite in the "City by the Bay."

Guests can enjoy dining in one of our dining rooms, decorated with prints and decoys of local carvers.

Remember the spirit of Havre de Grace's race-track. The Graw, as it is captured on a mural in our banquet room.

We have three banquet rooms with seating for 30-200 guests. Our staff will tailor a menu to make your banquet memorable.

**can•vas•back** (kan'ves bak'), *n., pl. -backs*, (esp. collectively) — **back**.

**1.** a north american wild duck, the male of which has a whitish back and a reddish-brown head and neck. **2.** a style of decoy made famous by carvers of the Susquehanna Flats region. **3.** a quarterly publication of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.



## IN THIS ISSUE

# Contents

## 7 Collector's Corner

By C. John Sullivan, Jr.

## 12 In Memoriam

## 13 Revelations from a Branded Bird, J.H. Core & Co., Norfolk

By Jim Trimble

## 16 Pint Sized Dabblers

By Chad Tragakis

## 24 Thank You!

## 26 Museum News

- The Butterballs are Coming!
- Ward Foundation Living Legends
- 2nd Annual Waterfowl Day, The Susquehanna Flats Classic
- Joe Engers to be Honorary Chairman of the 2015 Decoy Festival

## DEPARTMENTS

- |    |                    |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| 5  | From the President | 31 | Calendar of Events |
| 30 | Museum Members     |    |                    |

FUNDED IN PART BY  
*Maryland State Arts Council •*  
*City of Havre de Grace • Harford County*

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is funded by an operating grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

The Museum was incorporated in 1981 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which exists to document and interpret waterfowl decoys as this art form applies to the social and economic life of the upper Chesapeake Bay region. Contributions made to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Tax may be deductible.



"Pint Sized Dabblers" is the ninth display of special exhibit material that the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association has organized from private collections and shared with the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.

This exhibit of diminutive teal—the largest group of dabbling ducks—celebrates the sculptural beauty, distinctive plumage, and spunky attitude of the various species in all their colorful glory.

A wide variety of teal decoys are on display in the Carver's Gallery, including old working decoys, contemporary gunning birds, and decorative carvings by some of the finest award-winning decoy-makers working in the country today.

If you haven't been to the Museum to see this wonderful exhibit, time is running out. Please don't miss it! ■

Join the  
**Conversation.**

**facebook**

facebook.com/  
 decoymuseum



## ON THE COVER

The cover features a collage of colorful teal decoys from the Museum's popular exhibit, Pint Sized Dabblers. Depicted are four important decoys from private collections.

### Top:

Green-winged Teal Pair  
 Carver: Ira Hudson  
 Chincoteague, VA—ca. 1925  
 Collection of Henry H.  
 Stansbury

### Bottom:

Blue-winged Teal Drake  
 Carver: Jim Holly (Bob  
 McGaw paint)  
 Havre de Grace, MD—  
 ca. 1900  
 Collection of Chad &  
 Christy Tragakis

### Center:

Flying Green-winged Teal  
 Carver: Norman Hudson  
 Chincoteague, VA—ca. 1927  
 Collection of Henry H.  
 Stansbury

# Fresh Seafood & Steaks

OPEN 11AM DAILY FOR LUNCH & DINNER

BREAKFAST, SAT & SUN

9AM-12PM

GLUTEN-FREE MENU



## Tidewater Grille



HAVRE DE GRACE  
MARYLAND

*Live Entertainment Weekly*

### Happy Hour

**MON-FRI 3PM-7PM**

Like us on Facebook at  
'The Tidewater Grille on the Water'

**WEDDING RECEPTIONS & REHEARSAL DINNERS**

**CATERING**

**PRIVATE BANQUET ROOM**

**PRIVATE DOCKING FOR CUSTOMERS**



RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED

[www.tidewatergrille.com](http://www.tidewatergrille.com) • 300 Franklin Street • 410-939-3313 • 410-575-7045

**THE HAVRE DE GRACE  
DECOY MUSEUM, INC.**

215 Giles Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
(410) 939-3739

**www.decoymuseum.com**  
canvasback@decoymuseum.com

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

Pat Vincenti, *President*  
Charles E. Packard, *Vice President*  
Ralph C. Hockman, *Treasurer*  
James W. Carroll, Jr., *Secretary*  
Allen J. Fair, *Member-at-Large*

**DIRECTORS**

Shirley Knot Alger  
Jeff Coats  
John Case  
James Dodd  
John Hostetter  
John Ingoglia  
Todd Pauliny  
Jerry Rutkowski  
Madelyn M. Shank  
Myrtle M. Street (1932-2014)  
William Veasey

**HONORARY DIRECTORS**

David & Joan Hagan  
Charlie Joiner  
Jim Pierce

---

## *The Canvasback*

**PUBLICATION SPONSORS**

Ed and Jane Zimmer

**EDITOR**

James W. Carroll, Jr.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Bonnie Castillo  
Mindy Elledge  
Margaret Jones  
C. John Sullivan, Jr.  
Chad Tragakis  
Jim Trimble

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Heppner Imaging

**DESIGN**

iDesign Graphics

**PRINTING**

Stockson Printing Company

**MAILING**

BriteStar Business Communication Experts

*The Canvasback* is a quarterly publication of The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Inc. All rights are reserved, and no material may be reprinted without prior written permission of the Museum. All correspondence should be sent as above.

# From the President

---

Dear Museum Member,

We have had a busy summer at the Decoy Museum, and we hope this issue of *The Canvasback* finds you relaxed and recharged as we head into autumn and a new year.

Last fall our "First Annual 5K Fun Run" through Havre de Grace was a success. However, we realized that these runs are growing in popularity, and it is becoming harder to attract potential runners. It also strains the city's resources to support them. So, we decided to focus our resources on what we know best.

The 2nd annual Waterfowl Day—or Susquehanna Flats Classic—was held on Saturday, October

4th. This year it was all about duck and goose calling. We sponsored eight Maryland state and regional calling contests, of which two were for juniors and four were "sanctioned" events. Anyone aspiring to compete in the 2014 World's Championship in Stuttgart, Arkansas during Thanksgiving week must first win a sanctioned state or regional calling contest, and we drew entrants from both the local region and elsewhere. All of us thank Jimmy Wren and Zink Calls, Avian-X, and our other supporters. We hope to grow this event and make it an annual fall tradition for the Decoy Museum.

We were unsuccessful in several grant requests, so we will be having a special fundraiser to finance the fabrication of additional cases for the Carvers Gallery to hold special exhibit material. We have had to decline opportunities to exhibit rare and exclusive decoys and other waterfowling artifacts from regional and national collections that necessitated more modern cases. This project will cost about \$30,000.

Mayor Dougherty and the City Council have once again thrown their support behind us for the 34th Annual Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival to be held on May 1st,

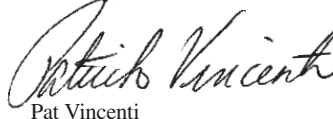
2nd, and 3rd—the first weekend in May 2015. Save the dates, and start making your plans now.

This fall 2014 issue completes our 23rd year of publishing *The Canvasback*. Our first issue was in the winter of 1992. We have sent out 91 quarterly issues of this wonderful journal, and we have done this on a very slim budget. Ed and Jane Zimmer have been very generous to sponsor *The Canvasback* for 2013 and 2014, so please be sure to thank them for their support. We are very grateful to them.

Our loyal staff, volunteers, and directors have also generously devoted time and effort to help keep the Museum and our events running smoothly. There are too many to name, but I particularly want to thank Pat Hockman, Henry Krotee, Noble Mentzer, Leonard Burcham, and Ginny Sanders. Membership Coordinator Bonnie Castillo picked up the reins for the Museum's 6th annual "No-Bake Bake Sale" in addition to her hard work in helping new members and in keeping our renewal rates up. Special Events Coordinator Margaret Jones tirelessly manages our events, both large and small. Treasurer Ralph Hockman and Finance Director Mindy Elledge have been relentless in managing our finances effectively. Over 80% of our budget is financed from membership dues, entrance fees, fundraisers, and direct contributions, and I never cease to be amazed at what we accomplish with limited resources—keeping the Museum's doors open 360 days every year and providing an unforgettable experience for our visitors.

Whether it is membership, volunteer time, visitors, exhibitors, monetary and in-kind contributions, or simply a good word in someone else's ear, we appreciate all of your support. Thank you for your part in making the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum a very special place.

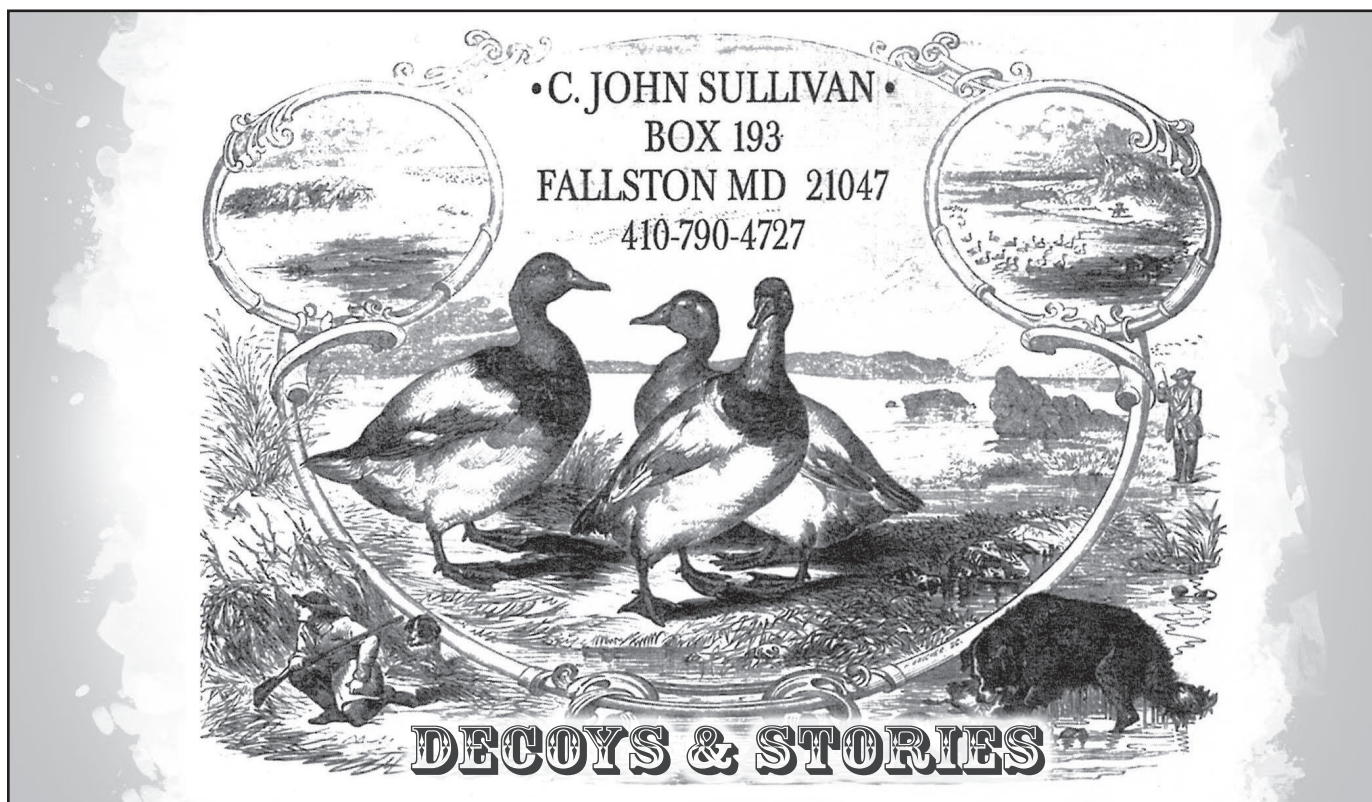
Sincerely,



Pat Vincenti



Photo by Leo Heppner



# 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Candlelight Tour

Saturday  
December 13, 2014

**Museum Hours: 10:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.**  
Admission after 4pm requires Candlelight Tour ticket

**Candlelight Tour: 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

**\$15.00** per ticket

Call the Decoy Museum at **410-939-3739** for more information  
or email [information@DecoyMuseum.com](mailto:information@DecoyMuseum.com)

Candlelight Tour Tickets  
will be available  
at the museum.

6pm will be the drawing  
for the Fall Raffle.



# HOLLY OR BARNES?

## Who Carved these Great Decoys?

**H**ow long have I been doing this? I hate to count the years but as I look back I had my very first decoy, that ancient Benjamin Dye redhead, perched in my bedroom in the late 1950s. What have I learned? Have I shared anything that I have discovered with others? I sincerely hope so; we are all in this wonderful adventure together and sharing what we have learned is such a big part of the camaraderie that exists in our decoy community. Many years ago, some collectors seemed to hold onto their knowledge and guard it as if it was a deep secret. That seems to have ended. The more we share the better the hobby is for all of us.

This past winter, between snows, Kate Livie, the Director of Education for The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, visited me at my home. Her goal was to

select decoys for the upcoming decoys in the "Decoys at the Crossroads" exhibit at the CBMM. She was searching for examples to best depict the differences between the Harford County and Cecil County schools of carving. Within the first several minutes of her visit, I showed her decoys which break all of the rules that we typically use to define these two schools of carving. I showed her a pair of Joe Dye bluebills, one with a paddle tail and a raised shelf carving for the decoy's head to rest upon, followed by a Joe Dye bluebill rig mate to the first

with a nicely formed upswept tail and no shelf carving. Both Dyes were carved in Havre de Grace but one in the Cecil County style and the other in the Harford County style. I then showed her a John Holly canvasback with a raised shelf and an ever so slight paddle tail sitting alongside a John Holly with no shelf and the delightful upswept tail that we identify with the Hollys. Lastly, I showed her a classic Charles Nelson Barnard high-head canvasback with the finely carved neck shelf and the powerful paddle tail. Each of the examples I showed her were



*Sleek Blackducks show the distinctive Holly style, although the left-hand decoy has a v-carved bill while the other is crescent-carved (not visible in this view).*



*These sleek Holly Blackducks have crescent-carved bills except for the center decoy.*

carved in Havre de Grace but would confuse even the most knowledgeable collectors. The point of this exercise was to demonstrate that there are no hard and fast rules. Most of the questions as to why this decoy is carved differently than its rig mate will never be answered.

As many of you may know, for many years my closest decoy friend and historian, Henry A. Fleckenstein,

Jr. and I have met regularly for Decoy Roundtables. It is much more than a show-and-tell exercise. It is an in-depth discussion and analysis of details and differences in carvings by the same carver. From time to time, other histori-

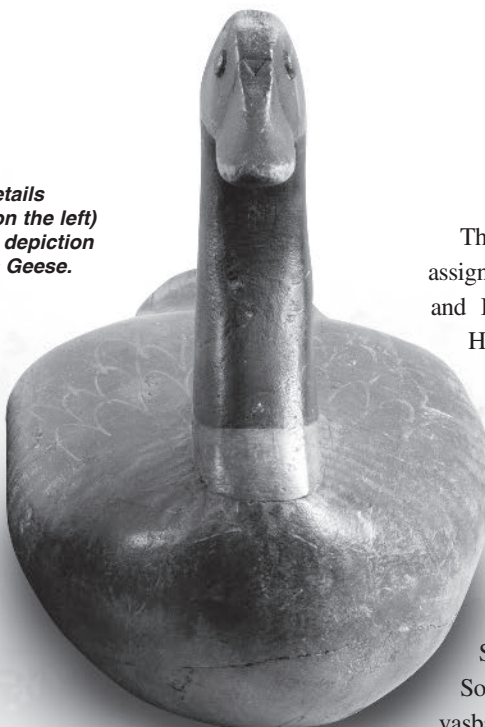
ans and students of waterfowling attend these informal gatherings. Over the last few months the decoys of choice have been carved by the Hollys or by Samuel T. Barnes. At one of these meetings I retrieved a big bold Canada goose decoy from the old grain bag that I had selected for transportation. I rested the decoy's back side facing Henry on the blanket chest in front of him. It is a decoy that I had written about for Gene and Linda Kangas. The story appears in their book,



*A Holly/Barnes Canada Goose as compared to a known James T. Holly (front), both circa 1880.*



*The bill-carving details (crescent-carved on the left) are evident in this depiction of the two Canada Geese.*



“Bonfire of Swans”; in that story I refer to the geese as Barnes/Holly. As I unveiled the decoy for Henry to inspect, his immediate reaction was, “look at those broad hips, it’s a Holly”, the next remark was, “turn it around and look at that curve carved where the top of the bill joins the forehead.” There it was—a perfect crescent curve exactly where one would expect a carved V to be exhibited. It is neatly, flawlessly carved and works equally as well as the V works.

It struck me as so very curious that when inspecting decoys we look at their overall form and condition and sometimes miss a very obvious carving characteristic. In addition, most decoy auction house catalogs and illustrated decoy books very rarely if ever include photographs which would reveal decoy head carving details. Resting alongside of a James Holly Canada goose, the similarities of the Barnes/Holly goose are striking but so are the subtle differences. Each of the Holly goose decoys that I have examined wear the V carving at the top of their bill, while the Barnes/Holly geese wear the crescent.

That roundtable ended with me on assignment to inspect each of my Hollys and Barnes decoys. Those wonderful Holly blackducks which we have called James T. Holly’s, with the long sleek bodies and the draw knife marks evident on their sides and bottoms, all have that curve at the top of their bills. The very first Susquehanna Flats cork Canada goose decoys which we have called the work of Samuel Barnes, they each exhibit it. Some of my earliest John Holly canvasbacks and redheads have the curve. The rare high-head Canada goose decoys with a blunt tail, not weighted and drilled for a large bottom hole to accommodate a dowel for field use, are attributed to Sam Barnes. They each wear the curve at the top of their bills. But perhaps the most surprising discovery is the early John Holly redheads carved in Havre de Grace for George Bird Grinnell and D. G. Elliott to use on the Currituck Sound in North Carolina. I am fortunate to have a few examples of those. They have inletted lead weights attached with hand forged square cut nails and in form appear to be nearly identical with one exception; one wears the V carving at the top of bill while its rig mates wear the curve.



*These Holly Redheads are virtually identical except for the v-carved bill on the center decoy.*

*In this view, the James T. Holly Canada Goose (center) is flanked by two Holly/Barnes decoys.*

*These Daddy Holly Redheads with a Carroll's Island brand (top) and the James T. Holly Bluebills all have crescent-carved bills.*



Why one most wonder? The curve could have been achieved with a chisel and then trimmed out with a carving knife. Or it could be quite simply the work of a skilled carver. I showed examples to several master carvers; Ian McNair of Craddockville Virginia said it would be just as easy with a knife as with a wood chisel. Captain Harry Jobes

told me he had carved bills in both styles and he always used a knife and never a chisel. Captain Harry continued: "Cap, look at some ducks and geese, Mother Nature made them both ways herself!" What led to the differences in carving styles— was it speed? Was it another hand carving the heads? Which is quicker? Which is just a little bit more com-

fortable to the carver's hand and which looks better? Questions which will never be answered.

It depends on the skill and vision of the carver. As to the great Susquehanna Flats Canada goose decoys, I will stand behind my Barnes/Holly attribution on the decoys. I will continue with the Roundtables with Henry. I will learn what I can, share answers and questions with others and carefully weigh the possibilities of who carved this and why did they carve it like that. ■

We're *Ready* for your  
next *Event.*



For details contact the Museum at  
**410-939-3739**



## COMMITMENT

At RBC Wealth Management, one of our core values is service. We express this value by building meaningful relationships with the clients and communities we serve. We get involved in the community because we recognize that the strength of our business is directly related to the well-being of the communities where we live and work. This commitment is reflected in our proud sponsorship of the Canvasback.

There's Wealth in Our Approach™

### Todd Pauliny

First Vice President - Financial Advisor

111 Fulford Ave B • Bel Air, MD 21014

443-402-2226 phone

todd.pauliny@rbc.com



RBC Wealth Management

© 2013 RBC Wealth Management, a division of  
RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Member NYSE/FINRA/SIPC.

Now offering  
**100% custom  
designed rugs.**



There is no limit to  
your imagination!



**Flooring  
AMERICA**

Charlie Packard's  
**Flooring AMERICA**  
Carpet By The Yard

**Charlie Packard**

Phone: (410) 272-8440 • Fax: (410) 676-1937

9B Aberdeen Plaza  
Aberdeen, MD 21001

cpackard@charliepackardsflooringamerica.com  
www.charliepackardsflooringamerica.com

## — In Memoriam —

ALL OF US AT THE DECOY MUSEUM WERE SADDENED TO LEARN THAT SEVERAL IMPORTANT LIVES HAVE COME TO AN END. WE ARE ALL PART OF A WEB OF LIFE, AND WE ARE DIMINISHED BY THE DEATHS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE TOUCHED OUR LIVES IN WAYS BOTH GREAT AND SMALL. TO THEIR FAMILIES, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE SHARE YOUR LOSS AND YOUR SORROW.

### Myrtle Pierce Street

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is sad to observe the passing of one of our most devoted Board members and supporters, Myrtle Pierce Street, on July 6th. Mert was born in Havre de Grace on November 23, 1932 and was the sister of renowned carver and Decoy Museum co-founder Jim Pierce.

Mert served on the Board since the founding of the Museum in 1986. Fellow long-time Board member Madelyn Mitchell Shank described her good friend Mert as “very devoted and faithful” to the Museum, noting her as a person who “loved life”. Mert made time every month to have lunch with a group of her former high school classmates.

Mert was active in Museum events, especially things like the bake sales, and never hesitated to pull out her checkbook when the need arose. In addition to the Decoy Museum, she greatly enjoyed her house at Bethany Beach. Mert had worked at Lyons Pharmacy, Parklynn Pharmacy, and subsequently retired from DuPont.

We are deeply sorry to lose our friend and colleague, and we extend our condolences to her extended family. We truly share your loss, as Mert was vital part of the Decoy Museum family, too. Her empty chair at the table in the Board Room was a stark reminder, and she will be greatly missed.

### Ronald L. Kneisley

Ronald L. Kneisley, 70, of Willow Street, PA passed peacefully into the presence of his Lord on Friday, September 12th. Born on November 14, 1943 in Columbia, PA, Ron was an avid sportsman with a great love for the outdoors, his passion being duck hunting on the Susquehanna River with his son Matt and friends.

In addition to being a loyal and long-time supporter of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, he was a founding member of the Lancaster Chapter of Delta Waterfowl, a five-year committee member, and their Mentor of the Year. He shared his love and passion of waterfowling with all that he met and was a warm and welcoming face at events.

Ron was a longtime friend of R. Madison Mitchell, Paul Gibson, Jim Pierce, Harry Jobes, and other notable Havre de Grace carvers. He would frequently squeeze his young son Matt into the back of his VW Beetle and fill the remaining space with sections of old barn beams and telephone poles that he would haul from Lancaster to Havre de Grace where he would trade that raw material for their finished decoys.

Matt Kneisley recently took over as the Northeast Regional Director of Delta Waterfowl, so Ron’s passion lives on. He will be greatly missed, but he will always remain a presence to all whose lives he touched. We are grateful for Ron’s friendship, for his years of devotion to waterfowling, and for sharing his passion with us all.

### Bernadine Louise Vincenti

Bernadine Louise Vincenti, age 89, passed away at home with her family on August 12th in Churchville, MD. Betty was the eldest daughter of eleven children, and an excellent provider for many, who instilled such values as family, love, respect, and honor.

Her values and her example of a life well lived are personified in her only child, Pat Vincenti, who is a renowned carver, Board member and president of the Decoy Museum, Board member and Treasurer of the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust, and one of the Museum’s most passionate supporters and advocates. By that measure alone, we count Betty among our greatest contributors.

In addition to Pat, she is survived by her daughter-in-law Jeannie, two granddaughters, and five great-grandchildren, all of whom are ardent Decoy Museum supporters, and a large extended family. Jeannie says they were “very blessed” to have had Betty living together with them for the past 14 years.

### Guy “Hunter” Kerlin

We were sad to hear the news that Guy “Hunter” Kerlin, age 83, of Aberdeen passed away on September 3rd. Hunter was an avid outdoorsman and decoy collector and a great friend to the Decoy Museum. He loved deer hunting in Crapo, Dorchester County, on Maryland’s lower Eastern Shore. His early interest in collecting antique ammunition and shell boxes led to an introduction to Evans McKinney. That friendship spawned a new interest in decoy collecting, especially Upper Chesapeake decoys from Harford and Cecil Counties. Decoy Museum president Pat Vincenti remembers Hunter as “very knowledgeable about decoys”. As a longtime supporter of both the Museum and the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust, he became a respected and steadfast advisor. We will deeply miss his wise counsel and loyal friendship. Hunter was the loving and beloved husband of Joyce A. Kerlin for over 46 years, father of two daughters, grandfather of three, and had one great-granddaughter.

# Revelations from a Branded Bird J.H. Core & Co, Norfolk

by Jim Trimble

*A Civil War Era Decoy  
Once Owned by a  
Civil War Veteran*



*Civil War era John Graham  
canvasback from  
Charlestown, Maryland  
with J.H. CORE &  
CO, NORFOLK  
brand and low  
center-breast  
tie-line holder.*

Most early decoy brands consist of two or three letters to identify ownership; those letters usually representing the owner's initials. Other brands are longer, some associated with early gunning yachts or clubs of the day. Most were applied by hot branding iron. The brands also helped in claiming lost birds and stopping thievery. To the collector, it is added knowledge... provenance... not only telling of early ownership, but often giving clues as to water where floated and its point in time.



*J.H Core & Co brand.*

A good collectible brand on a quality decoy can drastically enhance dollar value. Collectible brands, besides early gun clubs and gunning yachts, also include early brands of market gunners and guides, as well as notable business icons and dignitaries from yesterday. The collecting of brands on wooden birds has grown to sub-culture proportions. It led the Potomac Decoy Collector's Association, in 2000, to publish their 112 page "Brands Book".

J.H. CORE & CO, NORFOLK is a new brand to me and apparently was not known to the Potomac collector's group at the time of their publication. This brand was on the bottom of a recently acquired Civil War era John Graham (1822-1912, Charlestown, MD) canvasback decoy. It was also noted that the initial tie-line fixture was missing; and that a secondary fixture, a nail, had been moved forward to the lower mid-breast area. The tie-line nail and placement were consistent with rigged birds from Tidewater Virginia and the Currituck area of North Carolina. Who was J.H. Core? So the quest began!

John Harvey Core (1838-1910) was born and raised in Belle Haven, Accomack County on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Belle Haven is situated on Occohannock Creek, not far from the Chesapeake Bay. To the east, only a few miles away, were the marsh lands, inland waters and the Atlantic barrier islands that protect the Virginia mainland. Area watermen prepared for and killed migratory ducks with the onset of each fall/winter season; it was another bounty from their saltwater environs to be harvested. Sports gunning clubs along peninsula shores were just beginning to be established. These were fertile gunning grounds for a young Eastern Shore boy growing up mid-century; two centuries back. This Virginia community, like other lower shore communities, was commercially connected to Norfolk

through the steam engine supply boats that plied lower Chesapeake waters.

Core was 23-years old at the start of the Civil War (1861-1865). He joined the CSA's 6th Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment in Norfolk, Virginia. From there he was assigned to the CSA's Commissary General's command; the group responsible for supplies and supply-chain logistics, primarily for Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. It was also an assignment that would serve him well at war's end. In the later war years, and after the evacuation of Norfolk, he joined Mosby Rangers, a famed cavalry group known for their lightening quick disruptive strikes behind Federal lines. They operated primarily in the Northern Virginia area. Mosby's 43rd Calvary Battalion, Company D, was organized March 28, 1864 with post war records acknowledging Private Core's Commissary General and 6th Virginia Infantry service. Those records also noted Core's appearances on clothing receipt rolls and participation in skirmishes. Mosby's mounted cavalry units were unique in that they did not carry the usual cavalry sabers. Instead each man carried two .44 Colt army revolvers worn in belt holsters, and

some carried an extra pair stuck in their boot tops. Core was with Mosby when the Rangers were disbanded at war's end.

According to Elmwood Cemetery online records, John Harvey Core was "killed" February 7, 1910 with no explanation of circumstances. He was 71-years old. Eastern Shore Death Notices from Virginia's online Eastern Shore Library reports that "he died at his Norfolk residence where he had lived for approximately 50-years." His wife, a resident of Norfolk whom he married in 1868, had died in 1902. At the time of his death, a local newspaper described him as "one of the most extensive individual real estate holders in Norfolk and one of its wealthiest citizens." Core, through his J.H Core & Co., had amassed a fortune. He was a merchandise broker and wholesale grocer who raised thoroughbred hogs as well as farmed his extensive land holdings. Another source describes Core's business as "importers, manufacturers, and packing agents." Norfolk's present day Core Avenue is named after this early promi-

## MADE UNUSUAL WILL, ANTICIPATING ATTACK

John H. Core, a Mosby Ranger,  
Set Aside \$5,000 for Law-  
yers to Defend It.

\$100,000 FOR HIS MAUSOLEUM

And a Shaft Over Grave of Brother,  
"A Brave and Unflinching Con-  
federate Soldier."

The New York Times

Published: January 10, 1913

Copyright © The New York Times



Mosby Ranger J.H. Core, 43rd Calvary Battalion, Company D. courtesy of Don Hakenson past President of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society

New York Times  
headline article -  
January 10, 1913

nent and wealthy citizen with the street running over some of his lands.

**"MADE UNUSUAL WILL, ANTICIPATING ATTACK;** John H. Core, a Mosby Ranger, Set Aside \$5,000 for Lawyers to Defend It" – was the article headliner in a January 10, 1913 New York Times article. He had died (no reference to being killed) without issue, leaving small sums to siblings and nephews. He also provided small sums for a local hospital. Improvement monies were also allocated to a deceased brother's grave: "a brave and unflinching Confederate Soldier." The crux of the will provided that "\$100,000, no more or no less," was to be used "to build a mausoleum out of Vermont marble with heavy bronze doors and heavy bronze sarcophagus, large enough to hold my wife's casket and body as well as my casket and body." Core must have been aware of the unusualness of his will as he provided sums as well as stipulating the New York City attorney who was to defend it. He also provided for any legatee that challenged to forfeit any claim on his estate. Core provided mausoleum inscriptions for himself and his wife, his primarily CSA service; hers a good and faithful wife etc., all wrapped with their devotion to each other. But one last provision provided for the opening of the caskets by his representative for a final inspection of the body and contents with a report to the Mayor of Norfolk's office "as to whether the bodies had been disturbed or stolen."

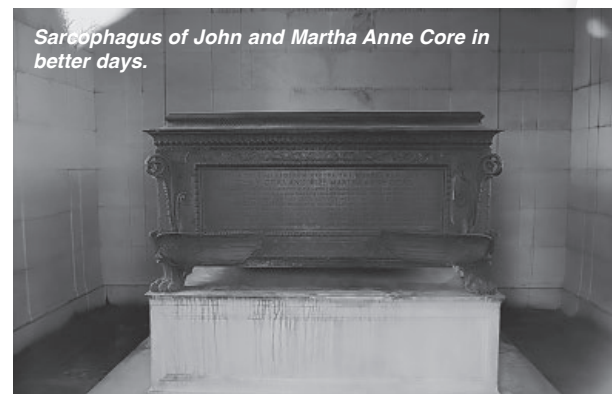
Core must have had a premonition, as almost 100 years later, the 40-foot tall domed mausoleum was broken into. On March 7, 2007, Virginia Beach's PilotOnline.com reported: "When cemetery officials unlocked the heavy bronze door Sunday, they were shocked. Strewn across the floor were broken glass, mangled panels from the nearly century-old sarcophagus and human remains.

Sometime in the past two weeks, someone broke into the marble and granite shrine, smashed in the side of the bronze sarcophagus, pried open the coffins inside and desecrated the Cores' final resting place." As there was no inventory as to what was buried; there is no way to know what was taken, reported local police. Most cavalry soldiers are buried with their sabers. Was Core buried with his .44 Colt army revolvers? With cemetery funds and with contributions from the community, the couple was re-interred. 2007 valuation of the Cores resting place adorned with fine sculptures was ten million dollars.

If only this bird could talk: We now know that this Civil War era John Graham duck decoy was owned by a Civil War veteran who built wealth supplying food, merchandise and services as his adopted deep water port city of Norfolk, Virginia was rebuilt after the war. In connecting the dots, it is highly probable that Core's food and merchandise were also being delivered to the lower Eastern Shore communities via steam engine supply boats. As a collector/waterfowl historian, it would be nice to know where this gunner hunted and what kind of guns, hunting devices and decoy rigs that he used. Was he a member of any of the numerous Back Bay Virginia/North Carolina gun clubs? (Virginia collector/historian Bud Coppedge remembers a handful of early upper Chesapeake Bay decoys with the J.H. CORE & CO. NORFOLK brand that were part of the decoy rigs of the old Currituck Club). Did Core return via supply steamers to his native Virginia Eastern Shore to hunt and fish... if so, where and how often...and

were there any trips to hunt and fish with Nathan Cobb or Cobb Family members whose timelines overlap? Has his brand appeared on other area maker's decoys that have survived? If you can fill in any of the gaps, this writer would like to hear from you. Jim Trimble 703-768-7264 or potomacduck@cox.net

Collector's note: When acquired, this decoy had an early Madison Mitchell style head affixed. A Graham head from an early Susquehanna River derelict was acquired, and proved to be a perfect fit. It now rides topside on a Graham body, a re-connect of old parts, above J.H. CORE & CO, NORFOLK brand. ■



*Sarcophagus of John and Martha Anne Core in better days.*



*40-foot tall domed ceiling granite mausoleum — John Core's final resting place*

Author Jim Trimble's love of history and his interest in Chesapeake Bay and Chincoteague area decoys is reflected in his numerous waterfowling related articles that have been published over the past 27 years. This article was reprinted with the permission of H&F Collectible Magazine, Lawsonville, NC.

# Pint Sized Dabblers

By Chad Tragakis

*Teal Decoys are  
Featured in the  
PDCA's Latest Exhibit  
at the Havre de Grace  
Decoy Museum*



**Blue-winged Teal, Drake**

Carver: Ray Whetzel  
Oxon Hill, MD – 1983  
Collection of Ray Whetzel

Outside of the duck hunting and decoy collecting communities, “teal” is probably best known as a deep blue-green color, often encountered in fashion, design and home decor. In fact, the name of this popular hue is actually taken from the color surrounding the eyes of the Eurasian Teal, a species of duck that is a close relative of the green-winged teal found here in the U.S.

A few dozen species and sub-species make up this group of dabbling ducks, and they are found all over the world. Altogether, they are one of the largest groups of ducks within the waterfowl family—but individually, they include some of its smallest species. With varieties including the Blue-winged, Green-winged, Cinnamon, Silver, Chestnut, Yellow-billed, Red-billed, Grey, Brown, Black, Speckled and Marbled, it is easy to understand why teal are also among the most colorful of all ducks. North America is home to three of these species: the blue-winged, green-winged

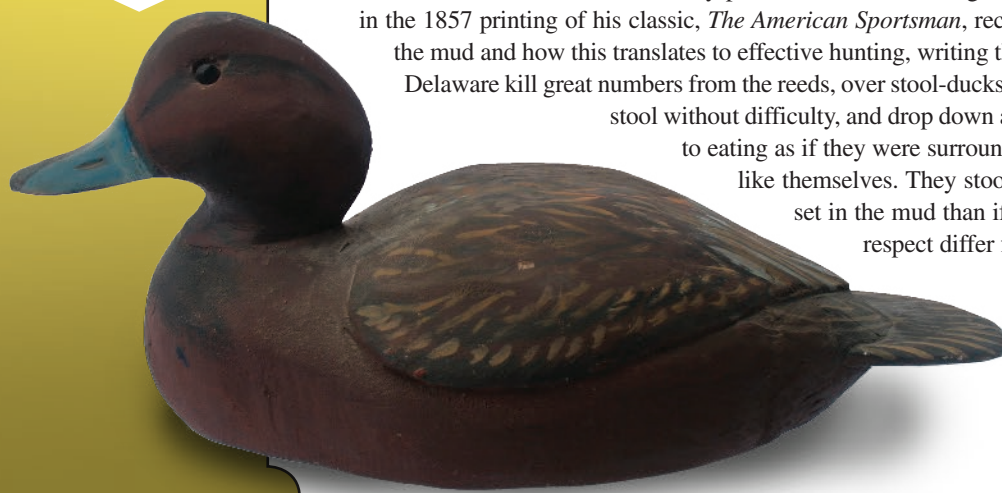


**Blue-winged Teal, Pair**  
 Carver: R. Madison Mitchell  
 Havre de Grace, MD—ca. 1960  
 Collection of Tom East



**Cinnamon Teal, Drake**

Carver:  
 Lloyd Tyler  
 Crisfield, MD—  
 ca. 1950s  
 Collection of Chad  
 & Christy Tragakis



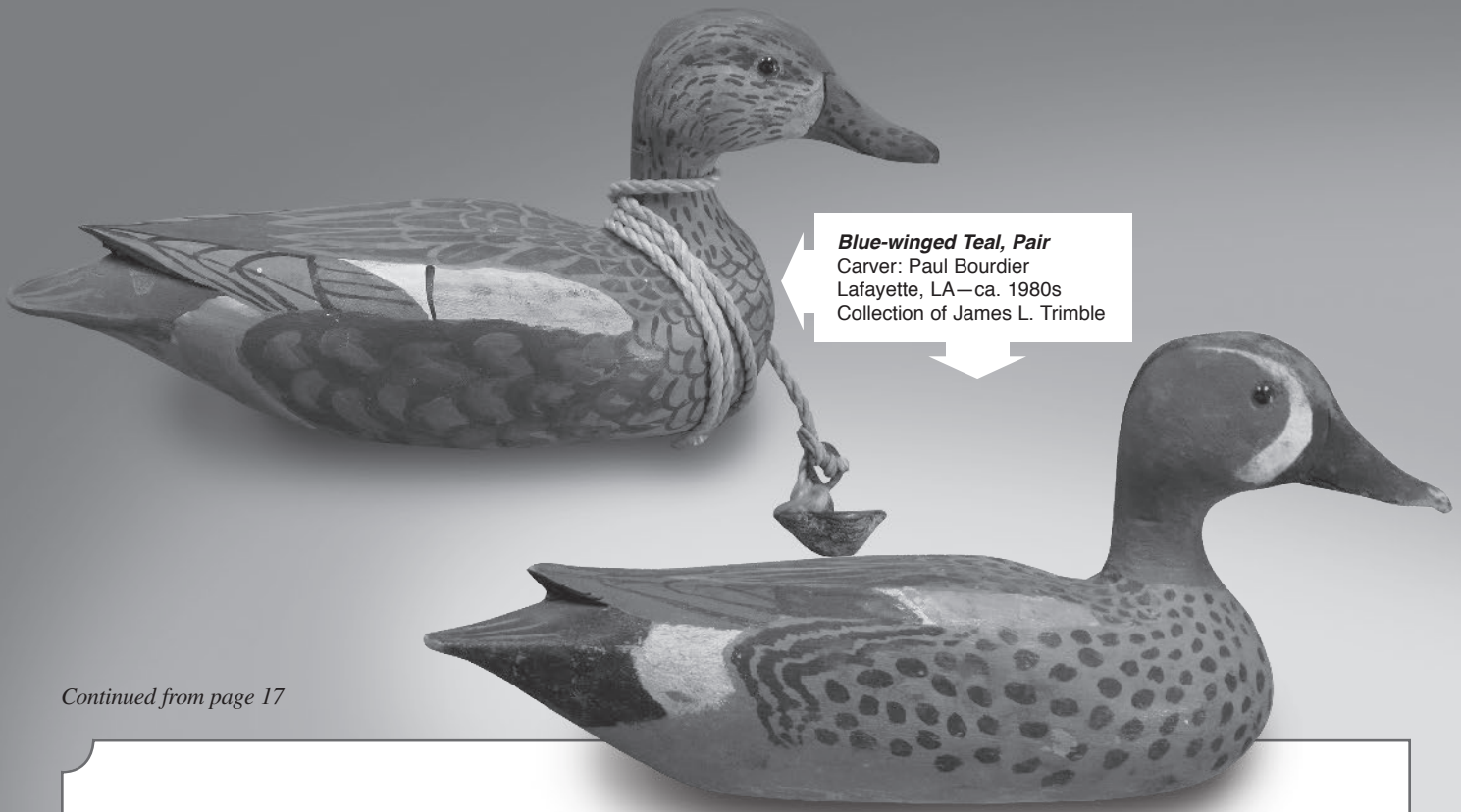
and, throughout the west, the cinnamon teal, and so examples of these three were the most widely produced by decoy makers here and are the most commonly encountered by collectors.

Teal are indeed pint-sized. The blue-winged teal (*Anas discors*) ranges in length from between 14 and 16 inches, and at between 12 and 16 inches long, the green-winged teal (*Anas carolinensis*), is the smallest of all North American ducks. Decoys of both species, however, are often as small as 10 inches long and seldom longer than a foot from bill to tail.

Teal frequent both large and small waters, from big rivers and broad marshes to smaller creeks and ponds. They like to feed on aquatic plants and insects, seeds, small mollusks and invertebrates in shallow water and they preen on the surrounding mud flats. Elisha J. Lewis in the 1857 printing of his classic, *The American Sportsman*, recounts their proclivity for the mud and how this translates to effective hunting, writing that: “The shooters on the Delaware kill great numbers from the reeds, over stool-ducks set out on the mud ; they stool without difficulty, and drop down among the decoys and go to eating as if they were surrounded by busy companions like themselves. They stool better if the decoys are set in the mud than if in the water, and in this respect differ from every other duck.”

Both blue-wings and green-wings leave their northern prairie nesting grounds as early

*Continues on page 18*



**Blue-winged Teal, Pair**  
 Carver: Paul Bourdier  
 Lafayette, LA—ca. 1980s  
 Collection of James L. Trimble

*Continued from page 17*

as mid-August, long before any other ducks. Blue-wings especially are legendarily early migrators and influenced by the subtlest changes in the weather. It's been said that just the hint of a northwest fall wind will get them moving for their wintering areas in the south. They arrive in the Upper Chesapeake Bay region in early September, but there are historical accounts of their arrival even in late August. As John James Audubon writes of them in the descriptive *Ornithological Biography* accompanying his 1838 opus, *Birds of America*: "They are the first Ducks that arrive in that part of the country, frequently making their appearance in the beginning of September, in large flocks, when they are exceedingly fat. They depart, however, when the cold becomes so intense as to form ice; and in this respect they differ from the Green-winged Teals, which brave the coldest weather of that country."

Swift and speedy, teal are among the fastest of all game birds. Some hunters have called them "feathered rockets," and this is a fitting description. They can also be erratic flyers,

often flying low and in a tight, turning mass. A zipping, zooming "dart" of twisting blue-wings appears especially unruly and unpredictable when compared to the graceful gliding and more orderly formation of mallards or pintails or most other dabblers. With such rapid wheeling flight and being famous for their acrobatic aerial maneuvers, teal can be difficult targets, but they are not hard to bring down. A 20-gauge shotgun is typically more than enough. In his 1901 classic *American Duck Shooting*, George Bird Grinnell writes of blue-wings that: "As with the green-wing so with this species—great numbers may be killed by the single discharge of a gun, provided it is properly aimed."

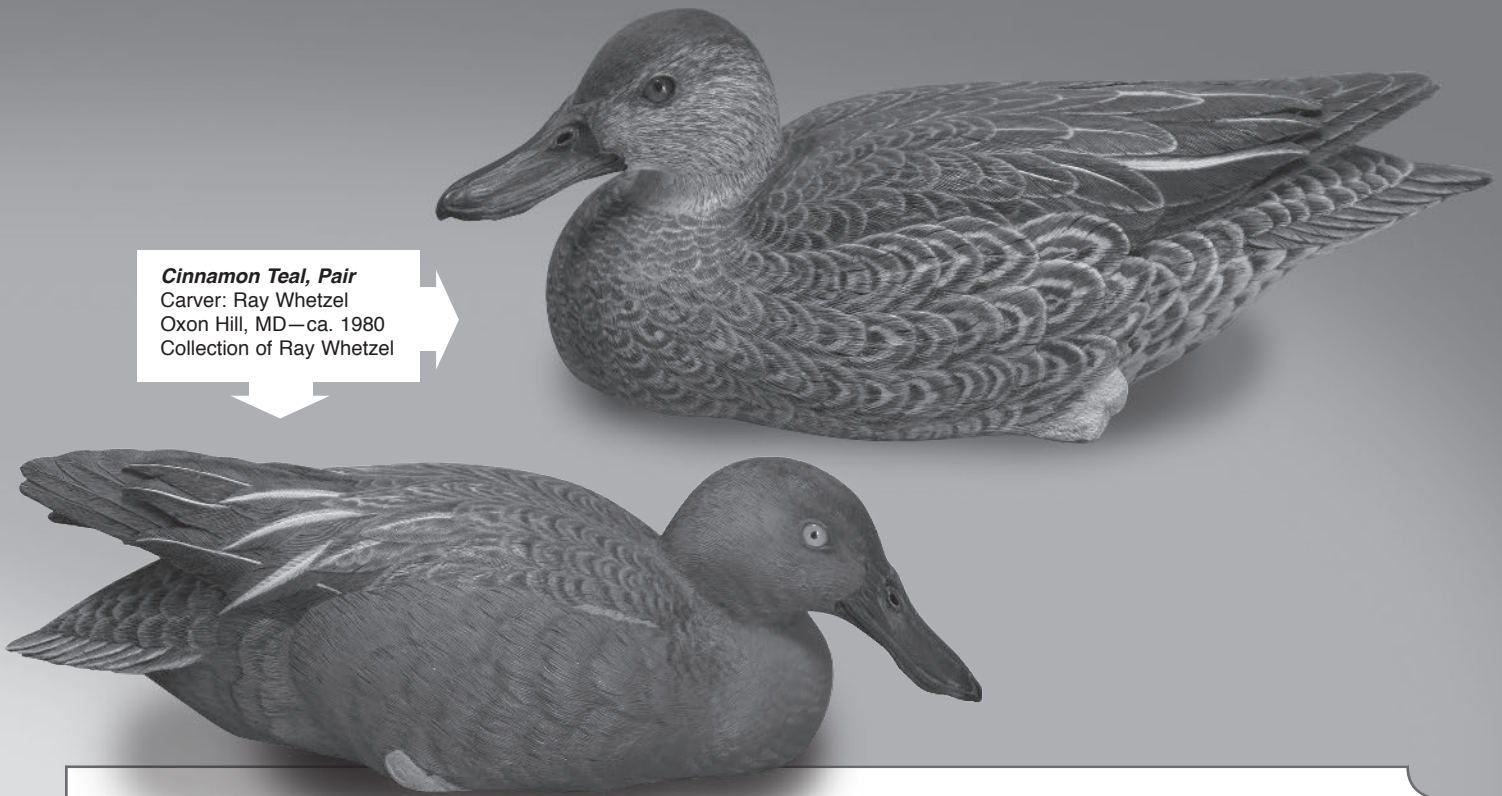
Unsuspecting by nature, teal are not very cautious birds to begin with, but this is especially so in September. Grinnell writes that: "The teal frequently travel in very large flocks, and the speed with which they move and the closeness with which they are huddled together have become proverbial among gunners. They come up readily to decoys and not infrequently a large flock may

come in without warning to a heedless gunner and drop down among his stools before he sees them." Being such trusting quarry, almost any shore-blind set-up worked well for teal, and many hunters simply took advantage of the natural concealment afforded by the bushes, reeds and cattails at the water's edge.

Teal were challenging and enjoyable to hunt in their own right, but more than that, for Upper Bay gunners, they presented an early opportunity to tune-up for fall shooting, and signaled that it was time to get their equipment dusted off and prepared for the coming season. And while they would certainly help sharpen a gunner's eye for the canvasbacks, redheads and bluebills to come, teal were also hunted throughout the fall season as long as they stayed around and again as they passed through on their way north in the spring.

Teal are delectable for the table—with a tender, juicy consistency when prepared correctly—and they possess perhaps the most delicate flavor of all waterfowl. In fact, Audubon said of blue-wings: "so tender and savoury is its flesh that it would quickly put the

**Cinnamon Teal, Pair**  
Carver: Ray Whetzel  
Oxon Hill, MD—ca. 1980  
Collection of Ray Whetzel



merits of the widely celebrated Canvass-backed Duck in the shade.” And of green-wings, he wrote: “The food of this bird being thus more select than that of most other Ducks, its flesh is delicious, probably the best of any of its tribe; and I would readily agree with any epicure in saying, that when it has fed on wild oats at Green Bay, or on soaked rice in the fields of Georgia and the Carolinas, for a few weeks after its arrival in those countries, it is much superior to the Canvass-back in tenderness, juiciness, and flavour.” They were especially welcomed by coastal gourmets at a time of year when few other ducks were available to eat; 19th century accounts by Audubon, Lewis and in *The Baltimore Sun* attest to the availability of teal in great quantities by early September in the markets of Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, respectively.

Blue-wing teal drakes migrating south in September are still molting their feathers, and so exhibit their drab brown basic or “eclipse” plumage. Drake decoys painted with bright feathers in full winter or “breeding” plumage, and with a bright white face crescent,

looked out of place as they wouldn’t acquire these familiar “nuptial” markings until December or even January. Darker colored decoys or simply using all hens provided for a more natural and convincing spread. Over the years, some teal decoys were repainted and transformed into small bluebills or redheads, widgeon, ruddy ducks or other species, but their diminutive size and distinct form usually reveal their maker’s original intention.

When gunning for teal, very small rigs—some with as few as 6 or 8 decoys—could be extremely effective on smaller waters, especially early in the season. And even larger and more open waters could be effectively covered with only two dozen birds, typically in a crescent, fishhook or “V” pattern. Mallard decoys, especially hens, which matched the drake’s eclipse plumage, also worked well and because they were larger, they were more visible to teal from a longer distance. A typical spread might include 6 or 8 mallard decoys set close to the shoreline and a dozen or so teal decoys scattered a bit farther out.

Several well-known decoy makers from the Susquehanna Flats turned out a rig or two of teal, and since such a small number were needed for effective gunning, some hunters also tried their hand at fashioning a few for their own use. This resulted in many dozens of wonderfully crafted, early teal decoys, some by unknown makers, available for today’s collectors to study, compare and enjoy.

In Havre de Grace, John “Daddy” Holly made some handsome blue-winged teal decoys, some found with the RECKLESS brand, from the rig of the famous nineteenth century gunning scow. His son Jim made some of the very best teal ever to float on the Susquehanna Flats. Many are found in paint by Bob McGaw, but a handful from the Charlestown, Maryland rig of Perry K. Barnes recently surfaced in outstanding original paint. Several Holly family style teal are also known in collections today—seemingly not the work of either Daddy or Jim—suggesting that sons William or John, Jr. might also

*Continues on page 20*



***Baikal Teal, Drake***

Carver: William E. Powell  
Vienna, VA—2012  
Collection of Chad & Christy Tragakis



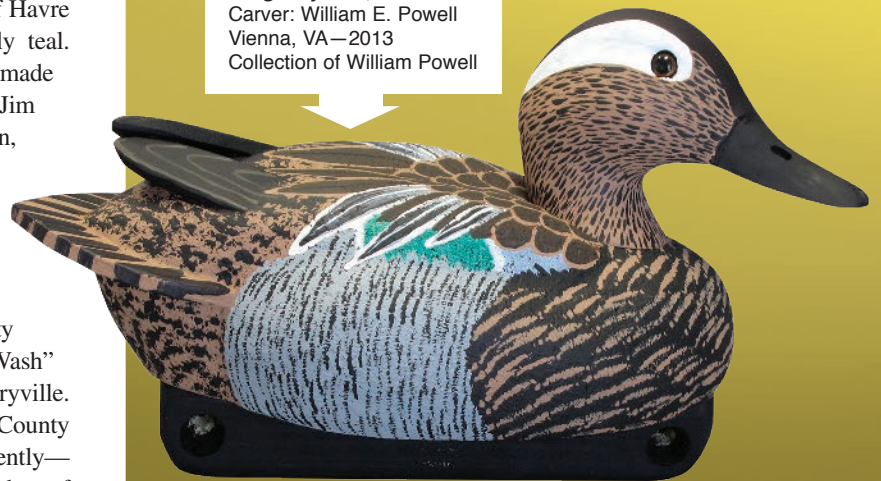
***Blue-winged Teal, Hen***

Carver: Lloyd Sterling (Lem Ward paint)  
Crisfield, MD—ca. 1930s  
Collection of Henry H. Stansbury

*Continued from page 19*

have made teal, or perhaps these are the work of others who were simply influenced by the Holly form and style. Charles T. Wilson, an educator and at one time the mayor of Havre de Grace, made some exceptionally fine and early teal. The next generation of Havre de Grace carvers also made some wonderful teal decoys including Bob McGaw, Jim Currier, Paul Gibson and Madison Mitchell. In turn, blue-winged and green-winged teal were crafted by most of those who worked with and for Mitchell including Charlie Joiner, Charlie Bryan, Jim Pierce, Captain Harry Jobes, and the many others who followed them.

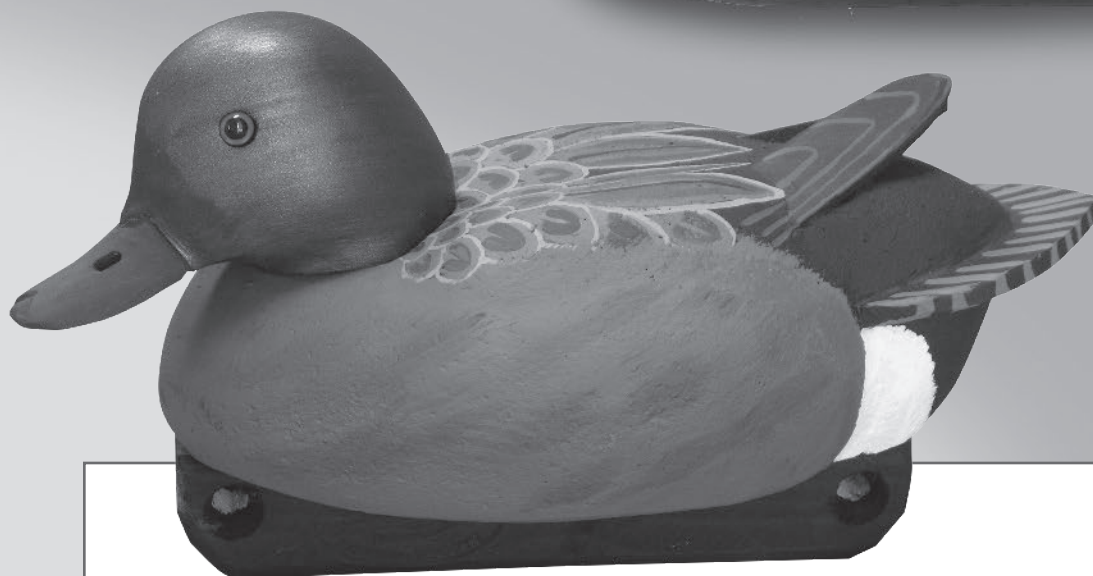
Early makers of teal decoys from Cecil County include John Graham, Scott Jackson and George “Wash” Barnes from Charlestown, and Ben Dye from Perryville. Three other early makers of fine teal from Cecil County were men whose decoys show up all too infrequently—John Wesley Williams of Port Deposit, Edward Cabot of Principio, and Alexander Bennett of Elkton. Joseph Coudon of Perryville, best known for his innovative folding silhou-



***Garganey Teal, Drake***

Carver: William E. Powell  
Vienna, VA—2013  
Collection of William Powell

**Blue-winged Teal, Drake**  
 Carver: unknown carver  
 Cecil County, MD—ca. 1890  
 Collection of Chad &  
 Christy Tragakis



**Chestnut Teal, Drake**  
 Carver: William E. Powell  
 Vienna, VA—2013  
 Collection of William Powell

ette decoys, made some wonderful early decorative teal. Allen Purner of North East and Milt Watson of Chesapeake City made both working and decorative teal beginning in the 1950s. Evans McKinney and Bob Litzenberg, both of Elkton, also continued the tradition.

Joel Barber, the father of decoy collecting, noted the relative dearth of the little marsh ducks for enterprising collectors, writing in his pioneering 1934 book, *Wild Fowl Decoys*, that: "Handmade Teal decoys are curiously hard to find." Some 30 years later, Bill Mackey, in writing about the comparative availability of various species in his landmark survey, *American Bird Decoys*, agrees, putting the blue-wing teal in a category about which he says: "Good examples of these species, in original paint, are surprisingly hard to find, but all occur with enough regular-

ity to make the search worthwhile." And as for green-wings, Mackey lists these as among the hardest to find, saying: "The rest of the list are grist for the optimist. A good identifiable Green-winged Teal or chunky Ruddy Duck is a rarity to be expected somewhere along the trail."

Barber went on to say of teal that: "Except for those produced by western factories, very few were ever made. This may be due to the fact that Teal, both Blue- and Green-winged, will dart to other species, or perhaps because they slip along too fast to warrant the making of lures. Whatever the reason, Teal decoys on the Atlantic coast are very rare." To accompany his text, Barber includes photographs of a wonderful and early stick-up blue-wing attributed to John Whittaker from Jamaica Bay, Long Island and an exceptional pair

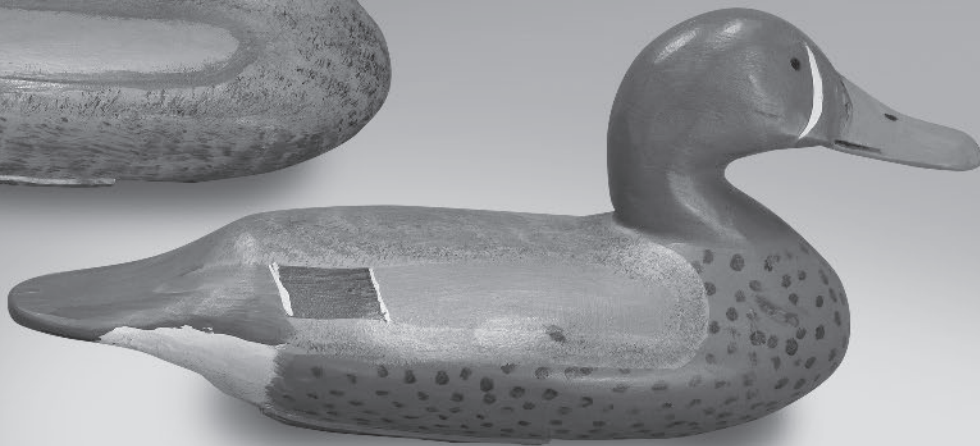
of blue-wings by the aforementioned Charles T. Wilson of Havre de Grace. You can almost see him smiling as he happily recounts his discovery of the tiny birds tucked away in the paint shop of Bob McGaw, and how they came into his possession on one most fortuitous of afternoons. For today's collectors, we can only wonder in awe when reading such a passage, and smile right along with him.

In late 2013, Tom East, Jim Trimble, Ray Whetzel and this writer traveled up to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum to remove our club's Decoys of the Potomac River exhibit and to install our new display, Pint Sized Dabblers. In this exhibit, which is the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association's ninth in conjunction with the museum, we celebrate

*Continues on page 22*



**Blue-winged Teal, Pair**  
Carver: Evans McKinney  
Elkton, MD—1992  
Collection of Tom East



**Silver Teal, Drake**  
Carver: William E. Powell  
Vienna, VA—2013  
Collection of William Powell

the sculptural beauty, distinctive plumage and spunky attitude of the teal duck decoy in all their colorful glory. A wide variety of examples are displayed, 45 in all, including old working decoys, some more than 100 years old, contemporary gunning birds, and decorative carvings by some of the finest award-winning decoy-makers working in the country today.

The exhibit features antique gunning teal decoys by Jim Holly, Ira Hudson, Lloyd Sterling, Bob McGaw, John Graham and Nelson Ball, among others. Also displayed are several teal

carvings by modern masters including Grayson Chesser, Pete Peterson, Ross Smoker, Jim Sprankle and Ray Whetzel. Some of the more unusual species, including Baikal Teal, Chestnut Teal, Garganey Teal, and Silver Teal, are found in the colorful work of PDCA member and decoy carver Bill Powell. There are several folksy examples from Louisiana, some wonderful vintage decorative pieces by Norman Hudson and Lloyd Tyler, and a variety of beautiful teal decoys by unknown makers. Also exhibited is a rare paperboard teal decoy pattern

made and used by the Ward Brothers of Crisfield, Maryland.

As always, Tom, Jim, Ray and I were ably and graciously assisted by Ginny Sanders and Margaret Jones at the museum. We want to thank Ginny and Margaret, and everyone at the museum, for continuing this special partnership for the past 10 years, and we look forward to many more collaborative exhibits guest-curated by our club. Because of its popularity, the PDCA's Pint Sized Dabblers exhibit will be extended and on display through early 2015. ■

**Rory G. White**  
Financial Advisor

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

218 S. Union Avenue  
P.O. Box 338  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
Bus. 410-939-5270 Fax 410-939-5271  
TF. 800-755-4537  
rory.white@edwardjones.com  
www.edwardjones.com

# Lyons Pharmacy

*Prescription Medicines*

*Gifts • Candles • Souvenirs • Home Decor*

**410-939-4545**

328 St. John Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
www.lyonspharmacy.com



OTIS IRWIN



**Ontario Printing Company**

PRINTING OF ALL KINDS

410-939-5896  
410-939-7887 FAX

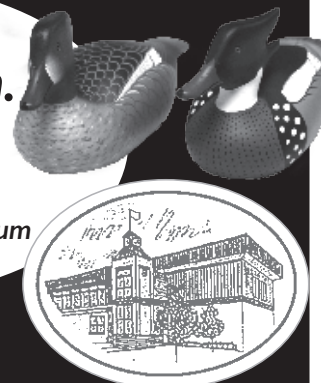
551 FOUNTAIN ST.  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD.

Email: ontarioprinting@verizon.net

**Join the  
Conversation.**

**facebook**

facebook.com/decoymuseum



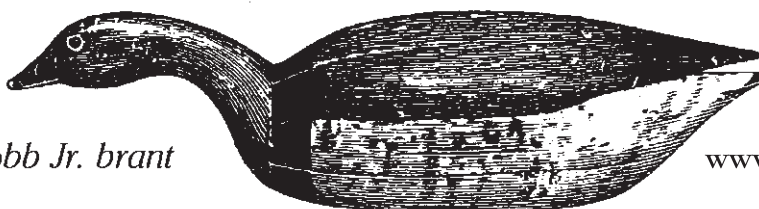
# DECOY MAGAZINE

- ✦ Carver profiles
- ✦ Features on carving regions, fish decoys, sporting art
- ✦ Complete auction coverage
- ✦ Classified section for buying, selling, trading
- ✦ National calendar of all decoy shows
- ✦ Photographs of over eighty decoys, many in full color

- ☐ ONE YEAR, SEVEN ISSUES ..... \$40.00
- ☐ TWO YEARS, FOURTEEN ISSUES ..... \$72.00
- ☐ CANADA, ONE YEAR (U.S. FUNDS) ..... \$55.00
- ☐ CANADA, TWO YEARS (U.S. FUNDS) ..... \$100.00
- ☐ FOREIGN SUBSCRIBERS, PER YEAR (AIRMAIL) ..... \$75.00
- ☐ SAMPLE ..... \$9.95

Send check or money order payable to:  
DECOY MAGAZINE  
P.O. Box 787, Lewes, Delaware 19958 • 302-644-9001  
VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

*Nathan Cobb Jr. brant*



decoymag@aol.com  
www.DecoyMag.com

---

# THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

---



This fall 2014 issue marks the end of our 23rd year of publishing *The Canvasback* – 91 quarterly issues of this wonderful journal (the winter and spring issues of 2006 were merged). It is an effort that benefits from a great team. Special thanks to each of our partners who had a vital role in getting out *The Canvasback* during 2014:

**Ed and Jane Zimmer** have been very generous to sponsor *The Canvasback* for 2013 and 2014, so please be sure to thank them for their support.

**Leo Heppner and Terri Shepke-Heppner** have always been available to apply their photographic skills for our events and other needs in order to provide the visuals that enrich the pages of *The Canvasback*.

**Mat and Ryan Stockson** at Stockson Printing Company have taken Brian and Kellie's graphic designs and provided top-quality printing and binding services, coordinating with them to meet our deadlines.

**Brian and Kellie Boehm** at iDesign Graphics have channeled their creative talents and computer skills to bring concepts alive. They are the design team that complete the layout and design of each issue, and this is the 57th issue they have done for us. *The Canvasback*, spring-fest issue 2003, was partially completed in the hospital after their youngest child was born.

**Fred Borleis and his team** at BriteStar Business Communication Experts have gotten each issue addressed and mailed. Cases of *The Canvasback* are delivered "hot off the press" from Stockson's loading dock to BriteStar's and are almost always in the mail that day or the next.

---

***Please join the Decoy Museum Board and staff in thanking them for their support.***

---

## Self-publishing doesn't mean doing it alone.

Print. ebooks. Illustrations.

Award-winning book designs.  
What you hope working with a designer  
could be.

See for yourself.

iDesignGraphicsonline.com



**STOCKSON  
PRINTING CO.**

INFO@STOCKSONPRINTING.COM  
36 NORTH MAIN ST.  
BEL AIR, MD 21014

410.838.6740  
410.879.6338  
FAX. 410.838.6743



## Heppner Imaging

Where Art Meets Technology

**Terri Shepke-Heppner**  
410-530-9711

**Leo Heppner**  
443-421-1662

[www.leoheppnerphotography.com](http://www.leoheppnerphotography.com)

[leopictureman@gmail.com](mailto:leopictureman@gmail.com)

P.O. Box 239, Havre de Grace, MD 21078

When it comes to quality, value and selection, no one comes close

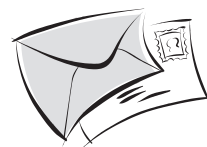
**Heppner Imaging**... has it all!

## BriteStar

Combining Direct  
Mail Production  
with On Demand Printing

**Business Communication Experts**

We create unique documents with customized  
messages for each customer and combine it  
with our expertise in direct mail production.



Want to know more? Please click or call: [www.britestarbuisness.com](http://www.britestarbuisness.com)

1305-B Governor Ct. | Abingdon, MD 21009 | p. 410.679.0441 | f. 410.679.1275

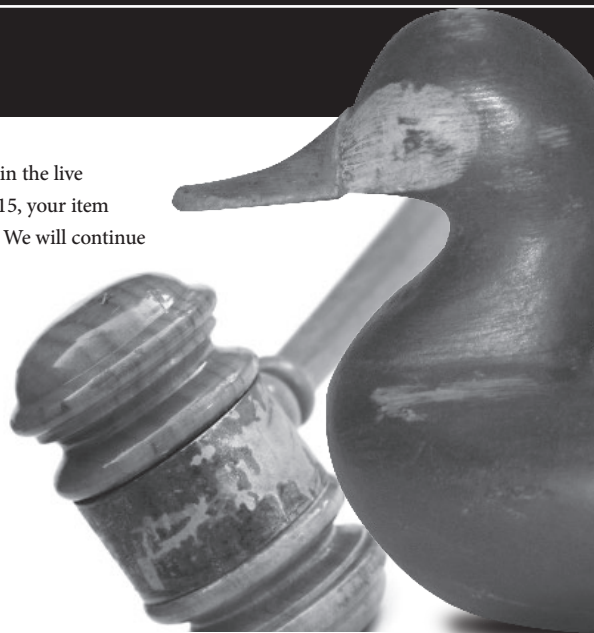
# Wanted

Auction items for the Live Auction  
to be held Saturday, May 2, 2015  
during the 34th Annual Decoy &  
Wildlife Art Festival.

If you have decoys that you would like to sell or donate to the Museum for inclusion in the live auction, please contact the Museum. If we receive the item BEFORE February 13, 2015, your item will be photographed and included in the Festival issue of the *Canvasback* magazine. We will continue to take consignments and donations for the auction until we have reached the 100 lot limit. Any items received AFTER February 13th will not be included in the Festival issue of the *Canvasback* magazine but, will be listed on the AMENDED list that will be made available as soon as the 100 lots are filled.

*The commission rate will be 10% from the buyer and 25% from the seller. All proceeds will benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Consignments must be received by February 13, 2015, in order for photographs to be included in the Festival issue.*

If you have any questions or have an item to consign or donate to the auction, please do not hesitate to call the Museum Monday — Friday between 10am and 4pm at 410-939-3739 or email [information@DecoyMuseum.com](mailto:information@DecoyMuseum.com)





## The Butterballs are Coming!



**BUFFLEHEAD** decoys will be the focus of the Potomac Decoy Collectors Association's next exhibit in partnership with the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.

Over the past ten years, PDCA's displays have featured mallards, redheads, ruddy ducks and most recently, teal. Now, plump and diminutive "dippers" will join the flock.

Launching in early 2015, the new exhibit will feature a wide array of carvings representing the *Bucephala albeola*, the smallest of all diving ducks, including antique, contemporary, working, decorative, full-size and miniature examples, all from the collections of PDCA members.

Swift and elusive, for centuries the bufflehead has been called the "spirit duck" and this exhibit aims to pay tribute to the spirit of this remarkable and adorable bird. ■

## Ward Foundation Living Legends

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Director Bill Veasey has been named one of the three 2015 recipients of the Ward Foundation Living Legend Awards.



The other recipients are Pat Godin of Paris, Ontario and Bob Sutton of Long Beach, California. This award recognizes artists who:

- have been long-time advocates for wildfowl art and the Ward Museum;
- are generous in spirit and commitment to teaching others and passing on their knowledge, skills, and talent; and
- have created an impact on the field of wildfowl art and/or the Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition.

Bill is a native of Elkton, Maryland and is one of the world's preeminent carvers and carver educators. He has published 14 books on wildfowl carving and has earned nearly 100 competition ribbons, as well as many other accolades. In 1994, Bill was inducted into the Easton Waterfowl Festival's Hall of Fame.

Bill is now best known to many as a dedicated teacher of wildfowl art who conducts workshops and classes throughout the year. People he has tutored and mentored have gone on to win hundreds of competition ribbons and author some 200 books. Congratulations, Bill! ■

## 2nd Annual Waterfowl Day The Susquehanna Flats Classic

The Decoy Museum's 2nd annual Waterfowl Day—or Susquehanna Flats Classic—was held on Saturday, October 4th. We sponsored eight Maryland state and regional duck and goose calling contests, of which two were for juniors and four were “sanctioned” events. Anyone aspiring to compete in the 79th annual World's Championship Duck Calling Contest in Stuttgart, Arkansas during Thanksgiving week must first win a sanctioned state or regional calling contest, so we drew quite a number of entrants from both the local region and elsewhere.

The calling contests were set up under a big tent on the lawn overlooking the Susquehanna Flats between the Decoy Museum and the old Bayou Hotel. Len Burcham kindly donated his time to demonstrate his skill at decoy carving. John Sullivan, Henry Peden, and Jack Shagena were there to present and discuss their new books, which you can read about on page 28. Margaret Jones organized a “cook out” on the parking lot with hot dogs, hamburgers, and homemade chili.



It was fun and interesting for the contestants and visitors, and we thank Jimmy Wren, Zink Calls, Avian-X, and our other supporters. We hope to grow this event and make it an annual fall tradition for the Decoy Museum. ■

## Joe Engers to be Honorary Chairman of the 2015 Decoy Festival

The Festival Committee and the Board of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum announced that they have selected Joe Engers to be the Honorary Chairman of the 34th annual Havre de Grace Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival to be held on May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd—the first week-end in May 2015. Joe is well known and highly regarded for his enormous contributions to the decoy world as owner and Editor of *Decoy Magazine*, a bi-monthly magazine that is the sine qua non among serious decoy aficionados and a source of delight and fascination for people whose interest in decoy collecting is just beginning to get traction. Stay tuned to find out more about Joe and his interesting accomplishments. ■

**Joe Engers (right) with Decoy Museum president Pat Vincenti at the 2014 Decoy Festival.**



# Flock to the Shop

The Gift Shop now has two new books, just in time for Christmas shopping.

## Swan Island Club; 1872—A History—2014; Currituck, North Carolina

by C. John Sullivan, Jr.

In the winter 2014 issue of *The Canvasback*, renowned waterfowling historian C. John Sullivan, Jr. wrote about the Swan Island Club and its interesting decoys. John has written fascinating and meticulously researched histories of other ducking clubs, such as Marshy Point and Carroll's Island, and he has now completed the definitive history of Swan Island, which he describes as "a sportsman's paradise".

Much of the history of waterfowl hunting in America can be found in the handwritten gunning logs of clubs that not only record their hunting success but also their social nature and traditions. Club histories are seldom continuously documented, and lapses in record keeping leave information gaps.

However, the Swan Island Club, established in 1872 in Currituck County, North Carolina, has a continuous record

of 140 years of operation. Member rosters, hunting success logs, photographs, commentaries from past and recent members and staff have been brought together in this new book. Decoys, dogs, boats, game, hunting methods, and the men who maintained the club's traditions are skillfully woven together in this history of waterfowling at Swan Island.

This book was written primarily as a compilation of the history of the club for its current members, employees, and others who have been closely associated with it since its founding. However, John has made a limited number of the books available to others who enjoy the history of waterfowling from the Gilded Age to the present day.

Anyone who has ever taken a lead on a fast crossing duck will enjoy this rare glimpse at a way of life that is all but gone.

## Duck Hunters on the Susquehanna Flats: 1850-1930

by Henry C. Peden, Jr. & Jack L. Shagena, Jr.

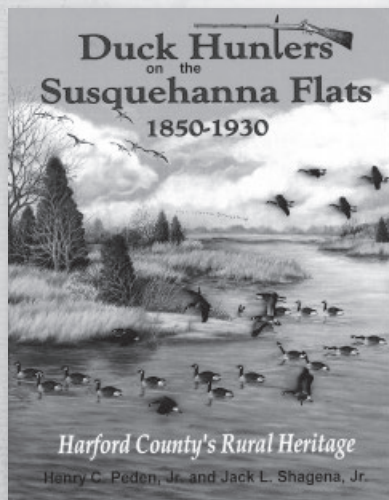
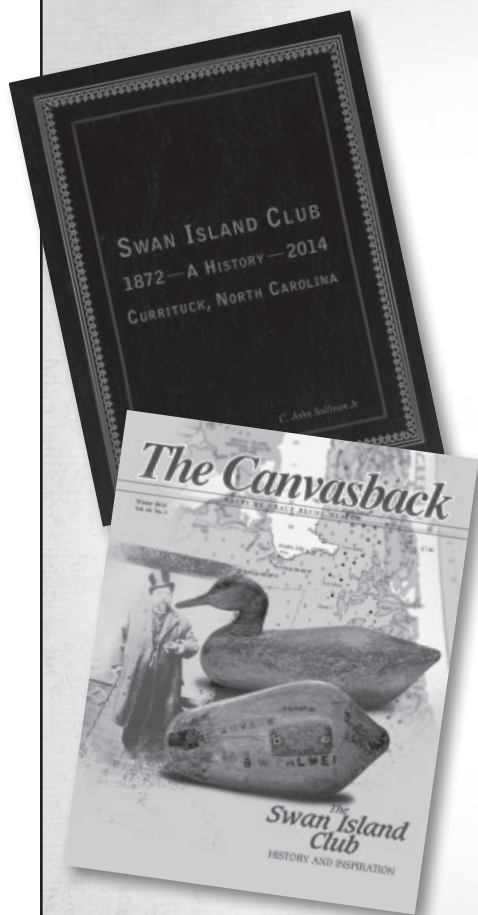
This new book by Henry C. Peden, Jr. and Jack L. Shagena, Jr. is the twelfth in their series "Harford County's Rural Heritage". The golden age of gunning for ducks on the Susquehanna Flats of the Upper Chesapeake Bay was from 1850 to 1930 when the proliferation of wild celery (*Vallisneria Americana*) attracted waterfowl in staggering numbers.

Hank and Jack have compiled brief biographies of 2,500 gunners of "the Flats" during these years. This book is a virtual "who's who" of men and women duck hunters who lived in Harford County. But it is more than that, for the Flats drew hunters from far and

wide, rich and poor, hunters who did it for sport, and hunters who whose lives depended on it.

The names pop off the pages: legendary carvers Ben Dye, Daddy Holly and John Graham; captains of industry John Dorrance (Campbells' Soup), Coleman duPont, J. P. Morgan, and Glenn L. Martin; President Grover Cleveland; Annie Oakley; Senators, Congressmen, and the list goes on.

Each short biography is interesting in itself, but taken together they create a rich tapestry of life in those years. For anyone interested gunning the Flats, this book is well worth having on your shelf.



# Fall Raffle 2014

## HAVRE DE GRACE DECoy MUSEUM

A chance to win ONE of five valuable prizes. Five tickets will be drawn.

**Tickets are \$5.00 each  
6 for \$25.00 or 10 for \$40.00**



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**  
Cash Prize of \$1,000



**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**  
One free night at the  
historic Vandiver Inn in  
Havre de Grace



**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**  
Mallard Hen decoy  
by Jimmy Pierce



**4<sup>th</sup> Prize**  
Brant Goose decoy  
made by Charles & Bob Jones



**5<sup>th</sup> Prize**  
Print of Charlie Bryan  
Pintails  
by Paul Shertz (56 of 250)

Drawing will be held 6pm on December 13, 2014  
during the Candlelight Tour. For tickets call **410-939-3739**  
or email **information@DecoyMuseum.com**

*(additional tickets will be available at the Museum)*



# Museum Members

Thank you and welcome to the following members and businesses that recently renewed their membership or newly joined us. Your continued support and contributions are essential to the overall success of the Decoy Museum:

Daniel Aherne  
Richard Alleger (Family)  
Carol Allen  
Richard Anderson  
John Archer  
Vonda Armstrong  
Jim & Sue Augustus (Family)  
Terry Barley  
Brad Barton  
Floyd Bassett Jr  
William Black  
Rodney Boggs  
Rick & Lori Bouchelle (Family)  
David Bramble  
Jim & Jackie Britton (Family)  
Ronald Browning & Mark Vervalin  
George Buchness  
Elizabeth Coakley  
William & Sara Corbishley (Family)  
Andrew Crooks  
Jon Deeter  
Robert Downer  
Tom East  
Rose Mary Evans  
Bob Foard  
Susan Forwood

Douglas Gates  
Glenn Gillis (Family)  
Russ Goldberger  
Robert Gregg  
Gene Gregory Sr.  
John & Elizabeth Gross (Family)  
Carolyn Guerrina  
John Hanna (Family)  
John Hartman  
Hugh Hatcher  
Nate Heess (Family)  
Daniel Heiny  
Don Helgason  
Lee Higdon  
Lisa Hocker  
James Johnson  
Madlyn Kalinoski  
Robert Keen  
Donald Kirson  
Mary Carol Larrimore  
Steve & Scottie Lay (Family)  
Peter Macgaffin  
Paul Mazzilli  
Steve McClung Sr (Family)  
Freeda McClure  
William & Patricia Mentzer (Family)

George Meyer  
Alan & Judy Miller (Family)  
Joe & Belinda Miller (Family)  
Frank Muller  
Peter Ramsey Jr  
Victor Reynolds  
R.L. & Joan Rich (Family)  
Ted Rineer  
John Roache MD  
John Samis  
Warren & Sandy Saunders (Family)  
Gary Schuchardt  
Doug & Marilyn Shannon (Family)  
Henry & Judy Stansbury (Family)  
Rick & Valerie Stephens III (Family)  
George Stinchcomb  
Kenneth Strycharz  
Philip & Nancy Tarnoff (Family)  
Mark Terry  
Richard & Arlene Thayer (Family)  
Harry & Rosalie Tillman Sr (Family)  
George Timmons (Family)  
Edward Townsley  
Barb Wachter  
Donald & Ann Walter (Family)  
Donald & Gayle Webb (Family)

## PIERCE'S DECOYS

Collector & Carver of  
**GUNNING DECOYS**

MADE IN THE FINE UPPER BAY TRADITION



Jim Pierce  
318 N. Lapidum Rd.  
Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

(410) 939-2272

## VINCENTI DECOYS



[www.vincentidecoys.com](http://www.vincentidecoys.com)

**Store – Jeannie**  
353 Pennington Ave.  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
**410-734-7709**

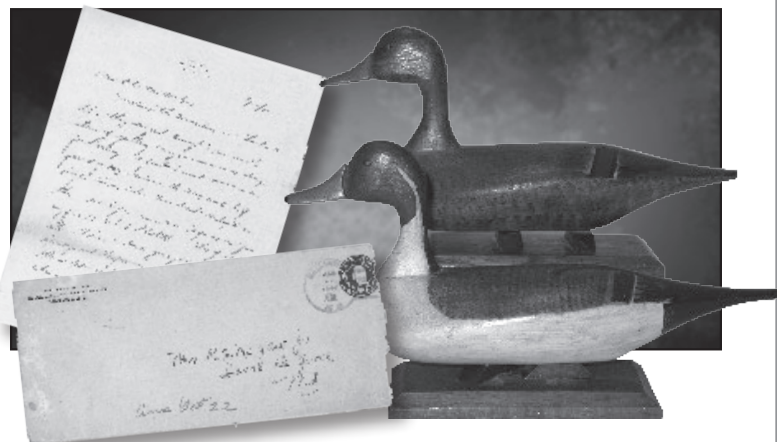
**Decoy Shop – Pat**  
303 West Lane  
Churchville, MD 21028  
**410-734-6238**



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## CURRENT EXHIBITS

- ▶ POTOMAC DECOY COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION TEAL EXHIBIT
- ▶ THE NEW JIM PIERCE DISPLAY
- ▶ THE EXTRAORDINARY PAIR OF "DADDY" HOLLY CANVASBACKS, A GIFT FROM THE MICHAEL FAMILY.
- ▶ "TOOLS OF THE MARKET GUNNER" EXHIBIT FEATURING A NUMBER OF PUNT AND BATTERY GUNS
- ▶ THE "GUNNING THE FLATS" EXHIBIT
- ▶ THE "WHAT IS A DECOY?" EXHIBIT
- ▶ AN EXHIBIT OF FACTORY DECOYS, A GIFT FROM DR. MORT KRAMER
- ▶ "POP" SAMPSON'S HOMEMADE DUPLICATING LATHE FOR MAKING MINIATURE DECOY BODIES
- ▶ "LETTERS TO BOB MCGAW," A GIFT FROM JOEL B. PUSEY



- ▶ A BEAUTIFUL DECORATIVE EASTERN BLUE BIRD CARVED BY MASTER CARVER BARB WACHTER
- ▶ A BEAUTIFUL DECORATIVE CANVASBACK FAMILY MADE BY MASTER CARVER J. NOBLE MENTZER
- ▶ A LIFELIKE ROCKFISH (STRIPED BASS) CARVED BY MASTER CARVER LEE TATE, SR.

### Tour Reservations

Talk to your children's or grandchildren's teachers and scout leaders about educational programs and tours of the Decoy Museum. Harford County school system classes are free, and we will also welcome your home schooled children! Tours can be tailored to the curriculum and different age/grade levels. Book your tours early by emailing Margaret Jones at [information@decoymuseum.com](mailto:information@decoymuseum.com) or by calling (410)-939-3739.

## AROUND TOWN

**December 5th:** Light Up Night! 6pm

**December 13th:** Lock House Museum's 42nd Annual Candlelight Tour 4-8pm

**December 13th & 14th:** Christmas Boutique at the Susquehanna Lock House Museum Saturday 9am-4pm & Sunday noon-4pm

**December 28th:** Susquehanna Ministerium HdG Church Tour 2pm-4pm

**December 31st:** New Year's Eve Duck Drop & Fireworks

*While you are out and about in town, come visit the Decoy Museum!*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT**

**[www.hdgtourism.com](http://www.hdgtourism.com)**

*We're Ready for your next Event.*



*For details contact the Museum at  
410-939-3739*



# MacGregor's

*Restaurant, Tavern, Banquet Room*

*Open 365 Days a Year!*

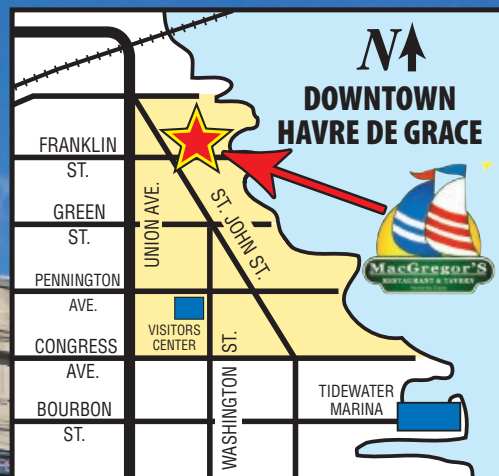
All Dining Room  
Tables Have  
Waterview

Daily Specials

Lunch, Dinner  
Lite Fare & Sunday  
Brunch

Children's Menu

All-Season Pearl Bar  
& Deck



331 St. John Street • Havre de Grace, MD 21078

410.939.3003

[www.MacGregorsRestaurant.com](http://www.MacGregorsRestaurant.com)